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MECHANIZATION INCREASES KARAGANDA COAL OUTPUT:
RESOURCES NOT FULLY EXPLOITED

Hundreds of new machines of many different types are at present cutting, loading, and transporting coal as well as cutting drifts in the Karaganda coal mines. Approximately one third of the mines have begun to use metal props. Two types of combine, one of which is the "Donbass," are in operation at the mine faces.

The first results of mechanization are already evident in the basin. The Five-Year Plan for the level of coal mining was already fulfilled by August 1949. The coal output is now 42 percent higher than for the first quarter of 1945. Labor productivity was 25 percent higher in March 1950 than in March 1949. (1)

Workers of Mine No 20 imeni Zhdanov, the largest mine in the basin, took first place in a contest between enterprises of the basin. These miners fulfilled the Five-Year Plan for coal output by 12 April and also completed the Five-Year Plan for development work. Since the beginning of the postwar Five-Year Plan they have saved the state 7 million rubles.

All mine faces of Mine No 20 are equipped with highly productive scraper conveyers, and cutting and loading machines. Coal haulage is completely mechanized. The sixth section of the mine had already fulfilled the Five-Year Plan for coal output in 1949 and since the beginning of 1950 has delivered 13 trainloads of coal above its quota.(2)

Workers of the Molotovvugol' Trust are taking one of the first places in the Karaganda competition. From month to month they are increasing their speed in mining and they have already delivered considerably more above-plan coal than was provided for in their 1950 obligations. More than 600 miners have already completed their 5-year quotas.

Workers of Mine No 50/52 have completed the half-year program ahead of schedule. Sixty percent of the mining is carried out here by mechanical devices. Cutting and loading machines are operating with great success in the second and third sections of the mine and producing 300-350 tons of coal per day.

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The average reduction in the production costs of a ton of coal for the trust as a whole is one ruble 30 kopeks, but for Mine No 50/52 it is 8 rubles.(3)

Workers of Karagandauglerazrezy Trust completed the 5-month plan ahead of schedule. Coal output by the enterprises of this trust has increased nearly 1,000 tons per day over 1949. The quality of the coal has also improved. Production costs have been reduced 2 rubles 48 kopeks per ton of coal. Pit No 1/2 took first place in the competition between the enterprises of the trust, completing the 5-month plan 11 days ahead of schedule.(4)

Nevertheless, there are at present many enterprises in the Karagandaugol' Combine which are not meeting the state quota.(2) Karaganda miners are far from fully exploiting their resources. In the first quarter of 1950, machines, especially the S. Makarov-combine, were idle in 300 instances, resulting in a total loss of 2,330 hours.

Loading, the most labor-consuming process, is the least mechanized phase of coal mining. The basin is faced with the task of raising the level of mechanized loading to 42 percent during 1950. At present, it is only 22 percent for enterprises of the combine as a whole, while it averages only 18 percent for mines of the Leninugol' Trust, the largest trust in the combine, and in the case of many mines of this trust it has only reached 6 percent, which was the level of 1949.

One of the reasons for the high number of idle periods of the machines is poor repair, largely caused by the inadequate repair base in Karaganda. Construction of a large repair base in the area is urgent.

The Karaganda Combine fulfilled the plan for labor productivity in 1949 for the first time in several years. This was because a number of miners regularly exceeded their norms, whereas many miners are not meeting their quotas.

Mine faces are operated on a two-shift basis. Coal is removed during two shifts and development work and repairs are carried out in the third shift.(1)

SOURCES

1. Izvestiya, No 118, 19 May 50
2. Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, No 102, 17 May 50
3. Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, No 108, 24 May 50
4. Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, No 110, 26 May 50

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